

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7963

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0610

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PFOR PDEV CB LA UR KN CH

SUBJECT: SOVIET CHARGE COMMENTS ON LPDR AND KAMPUCHEA

REF 76 VIENTIANE 0267

SUMMARY: SOVIET DCM YOURI CHANEVSKI COMMENTED TO EMBOFF ABOUT THE SOVIET PROJECT TO BUILD A NEW CITY IN XIENG KHOUANG, LPDR/SRV RELATIONS, AND THE MOOD OF THE LAO PEOPLE. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE DECAY OF PHNOM PENH, THE PRESENCE OF NORTH KOREANS THERE, AND STATED THAT KAMPUCHEA WAS NOT "COMMUNIST".

1. CHMANEVSKI DESCRIBED THE LAO BRAND OF COMMUNISM AS BEING VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF THE VIETNAMESE AND INDICATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE STRONGLY INFLUENCED LAO AFFAIRS.

2. CHMANEVSKI SAID THAT THE SOVIET AID PROJECT TO BUILD A NEW CITY IS LOCATED IN VIENG LUANG IN XIENG
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KHOUANG PROVINCE NOT FAR FROM PHONESAVANH. HE SAID THAT THE CITY IS PLANNED FOR ABOUT 20,000 INHABITANTS BUT THAT CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT BUILDINGS HAS NOT YET BEGUN, HE TICKED OFF A NUMBER OF PLANNED PROJECTS TO BE BUILT THERE, SUCH AS THE 150 BED HOSPITAL AND FUEL DEPOT, AS REPORTED REFTEL. HE CRITICIZED, HOWEVER, THE SOVIET PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A CAR REPAIR SHOP

BECAUSE AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NOT ROADS TO THE CITY SITE. "FIRST YOU SHOULD BUILD ROADS TO BRING VEHICLES INTO THE CITY."

3. CHMANEVSKI FELT THAT MOST OF THE LAO PEOPLE WERE PLEASED WITH THE NEW REGIME AND STOOD TO BENEFIT FROM ITS BRAND OF COMMUNISM. "OF COURSE THERE ARE SOME LAO WHO LIVE IN THE CITIES AND HAD LUCRATIVE JOBS WITH FOREIGNERS WHO ARE NOW UNHAPPY, BUT THEY ARE A MINORITY. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT AT FIRST BUT THESE ARE THE SACRIFICES THAT MUST BE MADE."

4 CHMANEVSKI, WHO SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN PHNOM PENH, SAID HE WAS DISTRESSED AT THE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTION THERE. "THE KHMERS CALL THEMSELVES "REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISTS" BUT NOT "COMMUNIST". THEY ARE NOT COMMUNISTS", HE EMPHASIZED.

5. HE SAID THAT HE SPOKE MARCH 20 AT THE VIENTIANE AIRPORT TO THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO KAMPUCHEA WHO SAID "PHNOM PENH IS DECAYING AT SUCH A RATE, IT WILL SOON BE ANOTHER ANGKOR WAT." CHMANEVSKI SADDENED THAT THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT THREE OR FOUR CUBANS IN KAMPUCHEA BUT THAT THERE WERE MANY NORTH KOREANS AS WELL AS CHINESE. CORCORAN

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